GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Carlvena Foster, Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick (arrived 7:34 p.m.), Nancy Routh. Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson.

Call to Order
Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
Board member Kris Cooke led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Recognitions

A. GCS Employee of the Month for September 2009
The board recognized Brandon Herbin, technology assistant at Cone Elementary, as the September 2009 Employee of the Month. Board member Kris Cooke presented Mr. Herbin with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Herbin also received a $50 gift card from Sam's Club, which has generously partnered with GCS to support the employee recognition program.

B. GCS Volunteer of the Month for September 2009
The board recognized Valerie Stern, a volunteer at Grimsley High, as the September 2009 Volunteer of the Month. Board member Jeff Belton presented Ms. Stern with a certificate of recognition. Ms. Stern also received a gift bag and $25 gift card from American Express. American Express recognizes the important role that volunteers play in our schools, and American Express has generously partnered with GCS to sponsor the volunteer recognition program.

C. ARC Educator of the Year
The board recognized Katie White, a life skills teacher at Erwin Montessori, for being named the ARC Educator of the Year for her dedication to exceptional children. Ms. White was recognized at the ARC annual meeting and was presented with a plaque in front of her peers. Board member Paul Daniels presented Ms. White with a certificate of recognition.

D. Sharon Ozment Named One of the Triad's Top Chief Financial Officers
The board recognized Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, for being honored by The Business Journal as a finalist for Chief Financial Officer of the Year. Ms. Ozment, who has provided 35 years of service to the district, has been chief financial officer since 2000. She oversees the preparation and management of the district's $600 million-plus annual budget, supervises the district's Financial Services division and partners with the district's chief operations officer in overseeing maintenance, facilities and transportation operations.

Her financial leadership has been present through the development of past budgets. The district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report received certificates of excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the Association of School Business Officials for 14 years in a row between 1994 and 2008. The district's budget documents also received recognition from the GFOA for fiscal years 2000 to 2009. Board member Nancy Routh presented Ms. Ozment with a certificate of recognition.

E. Piedmont Medical Alliance Presents Defibrillators to the Board of Education
The board recognized the Piedmont Medical Alliance for their donation of defibrillators to be placed at the following 14 elementary schools: Brightwood, Rankin, Falkener, Sumner, Jamestown, Fairview, Cone, Montlieu, Parkview, Sedgefield, Bessemer, Hunter, Archer and McLeansville. The alliance announced their intent to continue this partnership with Guilford County Schools until all schools are equipped with this lifesaving equipment.

Public Comments
Chairman Duncan called on members of the public who requested an opportunity to address the board.
Tyrone Smith, 4424 Kendell Road, High Point, NC 27265
Tijuana Hayes, 6 Pyruss Court, Greensboro, NC 27401
Luther Falls, Jr., 1603 Lansdowne Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27401
Joe Stafford, 4604 Forest Village Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406

Approval of Agenda
Chairman Duncan asked board members to review the meeting agenda and called for a motion to approve or amend it. A request was made to have the budget update presented after the closed session following the break.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Paul Daniels, to approve the agenda as amended, with the exceptions stated. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda
Superintendent Maurice Green presented the following consent agenda items:

A. Meeting Minutes
The minutes of the July 9 and July 21 special called meetings were presented for approval.

B. Personnel Reports
The consent agenda included personnel actions as noted in the monthly personnel action report requiring board approval.

C. Authorization of the Safe and Drug Free Schools (Title IV) Grant Application
The consent agenda included a recommendation for the board to authorize the Safe and Drug Free Schools (Title IV) grant application as submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The application has been approved by NCDPI pending formal authorization from the Board of Education. These funds are used to provide age-appropriate violence prevention and substance abuse prevention services throughout the district.

D. Authorization to Sign and File the 2009-10 Title I Application
The consent agenda included a recommendation to authorize the superintendent to sign and file the 2009-10 Title I application. As required by No Child Left Behind legislation, the Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to submit a North Carolina Title I Application on an annual basis in order to receive federal funds. The Title I application outlines the district and individual Title I school plans that have been developed based on the identified needs of students to be served.

E. Contractual Agreement with Brooks General Construction for Field Additions at Southwest High School
The consent agenda included a recommendation to award a contract to Brooks General Contractors for Field Additions at Southwest High School in the amount of $387,820. Twelve bids were received on September 1, 2009, for the field renovations at Southwest High School. Brooks General Construction, Inc., Greensboro, NC, submitted the lowest responsible,

responsive bid of $387,820. The construction budget for this project is $600,000. The MWBE participation is 20.80%.

Items A, B, C and E pass by unanimous voice vote of 10-0.
Item D passes by majority voice vote of 9-1 as follows: ***Ayes****: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett;* ***Nays****: Kris Cooke.*

Staff Reports

A. Consideration for the Renaming of Madison Elementary School

Nora Carr, chief of staff, presented to the board additional information regarding the original naming of Madison Elementary. At the August 27 meeting, it was suggested that the school be renamed one of the following names: James Madison Elementary, Dolley Madison Elementary or James and Dolley Madison Elementary. Per the board's request for additional information, documents and history books housed at various locations, including the media center collection at Madison Elementary School, the public library, facilities, and GCS Board of Education minutes (back to the late 1880s) have been reviewed. Those resources did not definitively determine the naming source for Madison Elementary School. There was some indication in the historical record that the school was named for the township it represented, and that the township was named for President James Madison, the fourth president of the United States.

Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Garth Hébert, to leave the existing name of Madison Elementary and not put the suggested names out for comment. The motion passes by majority electronic vote of 8-2 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett;* ***Nays*** *– Alan Duncan and Paul Daniels.*

B. Continued 2009-10 Budget Discussion

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, led the board in a continued budget discussion. The budget reflects a total of $21.9 million in reductions, with $11.84 million coming from schools and $10.03 million coming from administrative support services. As a result, the percentage of funding going directly to schools in Guilford County Schools (GCS) increased from approximately 79 percent in 2008-09 to 81 percent in 2009-10, while the percentage of funding going to administrative support services decreased from slightly more than 21 percent in 2008-09 to 19 percent in 2009-10.

Earlier this year, staff identified $36 million in potential cuts. Since total reductions for the district were about $14.1 million less, board members have considered and approved items to keep in the final budget over the last several board meetings, making a final decision at this meeting regarding the $4.9 million to be allocated.

The budget included the restoration of the remaining weighted student formula dollars to schools (about $5.8 million) and the addition of $2.1 million to balance class sizes and deal with other school-based needs. The budget also restores $500,000 in funding for maintenance and $333,997 in support of curriculum and instruction initiatives and reinstated approximately 13 central office positions.

In order to manage potential state budget shortfalls that could occur later this school year, staff requested that $3 million be held in reserve.

At 8:06 p.m., *motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to give advice and instruction to our staff and attorneys about*

the lawsuit encaptioned the Guilford County Board of Education v. Lyon Construction and to discuss student matters protected by state law. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The board returned to open session at 8:53 p.m.

Motion was made by Jeff Belton, seconded by Deena Hayes, to approve the 2009-10 school year operating budget totaling $590,685,328 as presented. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-2 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes and Carlvena Foster;* ***Nays*** *– Garth Hébert and Darlene Garrett.*

C. Update on Oak Ridge Elementary School

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board an update on Oak Ridge Elementary. Transportation has been going very well. Although the district is still waiting on a final report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the facilities staff is continuing to work with Turner Group to begin the appropriate next steps.

D. Report on H1N1 Influenza Pandemic Flu Plan

Nora Carr, chief of staff, presented to the board a report on the H1N1 influenza pandemic flu plan. With the H1N1 Influenza (swine flu) virus continuing to cause illness in our region, District Relations has worked with Health Services and Guilford County Department of Public Health to update the district's Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.

The plan was originally developed in 2006 when the threat of avian influenza was emerging. District Relations and Health Services updated the information about avian influenza and created an addendum with specific information about H1N1. We also updated the chart that outlines the district's communication chain for responding to an influenza outbreak. As part of the plan, principals are now reporting flu-related student absences via NCWISE.

The updated plan, along with a checklist for school-based preparations and a communications toolkit, has been shared with principals and senior managers, and has been posted on the GCS Web site. Information regarding H1N1 and germ prevention has been shared with all GCS staff members.

The Department of Public Health has asked GCS to consider hosting free, school-based vaccination clinics later this fall. The district also anticipates making the vaccine available to employees when it becomes available, along with the annual seasonal influenza vaccine.

Dr. Ward Robinson, medical director for the Guilford County Health Department, Robin Bergeron-Nolan, director of school health services, and Gwen Willis, interim chief services officer, were present to answer questions.

Board Discussion

President's Speech to Students

Chairman Duncan led the board in a discussion regarding the President's speech to students. Superintendent Green discussed with the board how he arrived at the decision to allow the students of Guilford County Schools to hear the address from the President. He explained the decision of what to do with students whose parents did not want their children hear the President and also expressed that he felt it was important that GCS offer an opt-out opportunity for those students.

Reports from the Superintendent

Superintendent Green thanked the board for their support of the budget and expressed that staff will continue to work through the issues as well as continue to look at our schools with regards to class size and enrollment.

Reports from the Chairman
Chairman Duncan thanked board member Carlvena Foster along with Nora Carr, chief of staff, and district relations for planning the High Point City Schools Integration Celebration. He also thanked the board for sending in items for the board of education retreat.

Board Comments
Board members were each allowed two minutes to make remarks, as they deemed appropriate.

Closed Session
At 11:07 p.m., *motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to discuss personnel matters protected by state law. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

At 11:25 p.m., the board returns to open session.

Adjournment
With no further business, at 11:25 p.m., *motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Kris Cooke, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*